

immediate decision struck me deeply and should influence your decision. He added, however, that, if France accepted the Conference, German diplomacy would adopt an attitude which would satisfy us."

In part owing to the tactful mediation of President Roosevelt, to whom the Kaiser had appealed, Rouvier and the German Ambassador exchanged a Declaration on July 8 defining the conditions on which France accepted the Conference, and formally declaring that Germany did not contest the Anglo-French agreement of 1904. A more detailed programme was drawn up on September 28. The Conference was to be held at Algeciras, and both the French and German envoys were to leave Fez. At the end of the year Rouvier informed the Chamber of the agreement, adding that he looked forward with confidence to the meeting. At the same moment the Chancellor in the Reichstag defined his Moroccan policy as the preservation of economic equality in an independent state. Germany, he added, had a legal right to be consulted in any change in Morocco. "The charge that we desire to attack France or to compel her to side with us against England is nonsense. I take full responsibility for the journey to Tangier, which Bebel calls the journey of provocation, but which was useful in bringing to general knowledge the international character of the question. *Cet animal est tres mkhant; quand on lattaqm Use defend*" The situation seemed a little easier, but even Rouvier was now full of apprehensions. The closer intimacy between Paris and London, dating from the Tangier demonstration, received a fresh extension in January 1906 by the opening of authorized discussions between French and British military experts on the initiative of France, which, though they did not commit the Governments,

pointed to the probability of co-operation in the event of a Franco-German war*

Despite the preliminary agreements the Conference of Algeciras, which opened on January 16, 1906, \v"as a prolonged battle between France and Germany, who received support from Austria alone. Italy, bound to France by secret treaties, gave her ally no aid. The main struggle arose on the control of the police in the ports. After a rupture had seemed in sight Germany, against the advice of Holstein, who was willing to play *fox* the highest stakes, reluctantly accepted a Franco-Spanish mandate under a Swiss Inspector-General. On the other hand Biilow established his contention that Morocco